

**CHAPTER 31
ADMISSION TO THE BAR**

FILED

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Rule 31.2 Registration by law students.

CLERK SUPREME COURT

31.2(1) Every person intending to apply for admission to the bar of this state by examination must, by January 15 of the year after the person commences the study of law in an accredited law school, register with the Iowa board of law examiners on forms furnished by the board and pay the required fee of \$50. The board may designate data submitted as a confidential record. Any confidential data must be segregated by the board and the assistant director from the portion of the registration filed as a public record. The law student registration requirement is removed. Applicants who have a law student registration on file with the board under the prior version of this rule on or before January 15, 2021, and who wish to apply to take the bar examination must still make application under rule 31.5 and must pay a fee equivalent to the fee specified in rule 31.6(3).

31.2(2) If any person fails to so register, the board may, if it finds that a strict enforcement of this rule would work a hardship and that sufficient excuse exists for failing to comply with rule 31.2(1), waive the requirements of this rule as to the date of filing. Refusal of the board to waive such requirement will be subject to supreme court review. If the registration is not on file by the January 15 registration deadline set forth in rule 31.2(1), but is on file by December 1 immediately preceding the registrant's July examination or July 1 immediately preceding the registrant's February examination, the registration fee will be \$150. If the registration is not timely filed, but is on file by April 1 immediately preceding the registrant's July examination or November 1 immediately preceding the registrant's February examination, the registration fee will be \$250. This fee is not refundable and is in addition to the fee required under rule 31.6. The failure to file the registration by the January 15 deadline of rule 31.2(1) may result in delays in conducting the board's character and fitness investigation. The board will not expedite its character and fitness investigation because the registration form is not timely filed. The board may conclude the registrant should not be permitted to take the bar examination until the investigation is completed. The registrant will not be eligible for admission to the bar until the character and fitness process is completed.

31.2(3)(2) Registration as a law student under this rule is not deemed an application for permission to take the bar examination.

31.2(4) The registration must be accompanied by letters prepared by three persons not related to the registrant by consanguinity or affinity attesting to the registrant's good moral character. The letters must be signed and include contact information for the reference provider. The letters must

state how the reference knows the registrant, how long the reference has known the registrant, and the basis for concluding the registrant possesses good moral character.

~~31.2(5) The board will review each registration and may require the personal presence of any registrant at such time and place as the board may prescribe for interview and examination concerning the registrant's character and fitness. The board may at any time find it advisable to make further inquiry into the character, fitness, and general qualifications of the registrant, and with regard to each registration, the board will have all of the powers given it in respect to inquiry and investigation of candidates for admission to the bar.~~

~~31.2(6) Applicants previously admitted to practice law in another state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States are not required to comply with the law student registration requirement contained in this rule.~~

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Rule 31.4 Admission by transferred UBE score.

31.4(1) *UBE score transferability.* An applicant who has earned a UBE score in another jurisdiction may transfer the UBE score and file an application for admission by transferred UBE score at any time on or after December 1, 2015, provided:

- a. The transferred UBE score is NCBE-certified and is a combined, scaled score of 266 or above.
- b. The application includes a nonrefundable administrative fee of \$900. The applicant must pay the applicable fee charged by any electronic application vendor.
- c. The applicant causes the NCBE to transfer the UBE score no later than three months after the application is filed.
- d. The applicant has received an LL.B. or a J.D. degree from a reputable law school fully or provisionally approved by the American Bar Association at the time the applicant graduated. Proof of this requirement will be by affidavit of the law school's dean on the board's dean's affidavit form. The affidavit must be made before an officer authorized to administer oaths and having a seal.
- e. The applicant has earned a scaled score of at least 80 on the MPRE administered by the NCBE.
- f. The applicant has not been denied admission or permission to sit for a bar examination by any jurisdiction on character and fitness grounds.

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Rule 31.5 Bar examination application; contents and deadlines.

31.5(1) The board of law examiners and the assistant director will ~~prepare~~designate such forms as may be necessary for application for examination. The application must require the applicant to demonstrate the applicant is a person of honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness, and one who appreciates and will adhere to the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct as adopted by the supreme court, together with such other information as the board and the assistant director determine to be necessary and proper.

31.5(2) Every applicant for admission to the bar must make application, under oath, and upon a form ~~furnished~~designated by the assistant director. The applicant must file the application with the assistant director no later than April 1 preceding the July examination or November 1 preceding the February examination. An applicant who fails the Iowa bar examination and wants to take the next examination must file a new application within the above deadlines or within 30 days of the date the applicant's score is posted in the office of professional regulation, whichever is later. There will be no waiver of these deadlines. If any changes occur after the application is filed that affect the applicant's answers, the applicant must amend the application. A new and complete application must be filed for each examination for admission.

31.5(3) The board may designate portions of the data submitted for this purpose by the applicant or third parties as a confidential record. The board and the assistant director must segregate that portion of the application data deemed confidential from the portion that is filed as a public record. In the event of a request for a hearing on character or fitness under rule 31.9(2) following an initial determination by the board, it may designate any additional information received at the hearing and all proceedings before the board as a confidential record.

Rule 31.6 Fee.

31.6(1) Payment of application fee. Every applicant for admission to the bar upon examination must, as a part of the application, ~~remit~~pay to the Iowa board of law examiners an application fee. ~~For applicants not previously admitted to practice law in any other state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States, the fee is \$550. For applicants previously admitted to practice law in another state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States, the fee is \$800.~~ This fee is not refundable and cannot be applied to a subsequent application. The full fee must be ~~remitted~~ paid within the deadline for filing the bar application under rule 31.5(2). The applicant must pay the applicable fee charged by any electronic application vendor.

31.6(2) First Iowa bar exam application. The fee is \$800 for every applicant submitting his or her first application to take the Iowa bar examination.

31.6(3) Subsequent Iowa bar exam applications. The following fees are applicable for those submitting a second or subsequent application to take the Iowa bar examination. For applicants

not previously admitted to practice law in any other state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States, the fee is \$550. For applicants previously admitted to practice law in another state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States, the fee is \$800.